CHANGE IN EXAMINATIONS SYSTEM-MULTIPLE SET OF QUESTION PAPERS

3410. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have re-considered the need for change in examination system particularly in respect of multiple set of question papers which was introduced as an experiment by the CBSE in the Board Examinations of Class 10 and 12;

(b) if so, what are the details and what has been the Government's assessment in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that new examination system besides checking unfair means used by students for copying purposes, has resulted in the failure of thousands of children by schools annualy after class 10 and 12 examinations as reported in the Hindustan Times of 10th December, 1993;

(d) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(e) what steps Government have taken to improve the examination system in the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (e) The National Policy on Education, 1986 Stipulated adoption of certain functional measures to recast the examination system. Since the public examinations are conducted by the Boards of School Education, the responsibility for adoption of the examination reform measures rests on them. The role of the Central Government is largely recommendatory and advisory in the matter.

As regards use of Multiple Sets of Question Papers in the CBSE Examinations, the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi delivered a judgement on 10-9-1993 on a writ petition filed by a body known as Parents' Forum for Meaningful Education. In its judgement, the Hon'ble court directed the CBSE to issue a public notice in prominent newspaper inviting views on the use of multiple sets of question papers and to also seek the views of Principals, staff and Parent-Teachers' Associations of affiliated schools. The Board has accordingly, sought the views of all the interest groups by issuing a questionnaire to all the affiliated schools. Public notices eliciting the views of the general public on the question of multiple sets of question papers have also been published in the leading newspapers.

The use of multiple sets of question papers has succeeded in checking the menace of mass copying and use of unfair means in the examinations conducted by the CBSE. The use of multiple sets of question papers has not made any adverse impact on the pass percentage of candidates who appeared in the class X and class XII examinations conducted by the Board in 1992 & 1993.

LITERACY AMONG SC|ST AND MUSLIMS

3411. DR. SHRIKANT RAM CHANDRA JICHKAR :
SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware about the dismal state of literacy amongst the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, and Muslims.

(b) whether Government have a special programme for improving such situation; and

(c) what are the long term measures which will be necessary for ameliorating the literacy status of such deprived groups ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) to (c) In order to improve literacy and education among scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and educationally backward minorities, the Programme of Action-1992 (POA-92) prepared in pursuance of National Policy on Education-1986 as updated in 1992, which was tabled in the Parliament on 19th August, 1992 envisages a number of programmes. Some of the measures to improve the literacy among SCs, STs and Educationally Backward Minorities are :

— Provision of incentives such as scholarships, coaching, training and remedial teaching classes, hostel facilities, etc.;

— Improvement of facilities in primary schools under the scheme of Operation Blackboard;

— Programmes for non-formal education for those who cannot attend whole day schools;

— Opening of new schools in SC|ST localities;

— In the basic education projects namely Bihar Education Project, UP Education Project and Lok-Jumbish in Rajasthan, the SC|ST and other socially disadvantaged groups are the focus among the target groups;

— Setting up community polytechnics in minority concentration districts and training of teachers of minority managed schools;

— Scheme of Area Intensive Programme for Educationally Backward Minorities;

— Scheme of Modernisation of Madarsa Education;

— Preparation of text-books, primers in tribal languages and dialects;

— The Total Literacy Campaigns invariably include all the sections of society and since the SCs and STs have a bigger percentage of illiterates, their participation in the programme is always larger.

EXCAVATION WORK AT NAGPUR

3412. SHRI V. RAJESHWAR RAO :
DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Minister or Directorate of Archaeology has received any letters from Members of Parliament from Nagpur about excavation work under the Regional Directorate or Branch at Nagpur;

(b) what is the reason for the Directorate not being enthusiastic about taking up new excavation work at Adam Paini in Bhandara District; and

(c) whether the grants for excavation work under the Nagpur office will be enhanced ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE) (KUMARI SELJA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Archaeological Survey of India carried out excavations at Adam, district Nagpur during the last four seasons from 1988—92, and has completed the work. The report is under preparation and is in final stages of completion. Excavations at Pauni, District Bhandara, Maharashtra have been carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India, jointly with Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, University of Nagpur, Nagpur, during the seasons 1968—70. Since the cultural sequence of the site has been established and the excavation